HE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Confirmation No. 6427

Osamu NISHIMURA et al.

Docket No. 2001 0291A

Serial No. 09/806,871

Group Art Unit 1653

Filed April 5, 2001

Examiner David Lukton

METHOD FOR REMOVING N-TERMINAL

METHIONINE

ACCCLAT NO. 25-0975

AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

TECH CENTER 162903 This Amendment & Reply is in response to the Office Action dated October (i.e., Paper No.13), and is being filed on or before its now current due date of January 29, 2004. Applicants herein provide the following amendments and remarks.